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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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8-11-1970

To: Lewis Smith

John Allen Chalk

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Memo to: Lewis Smith

From: John Allen Chalk

Date: August 11, 1970

I regret that I did not get an opportunity to talk with you last week before leaving town. I understand you tried to contact me one day while you were at the office, but I was unable to get back to you.

C  
O I have returned the material sent to you by Mrs. Val Canon. I deeply regret the misrepresentation in her letter regarding my views on the Holy Spirit. I did visit with the Canons at the time mentioned and we did talk about the Holy Spirit. I tried to share with them what I believed to be in keeping with the chapter in my book, Jesus' Church, called "The Spirit of Jesus' Church." They, however, took me to be talking about "the BAPTISM OF THE Holy Spirit." I visited with them on Friday evening, July 31, and clarified this matter. They now know that I do not believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit for the Christians today, and secondly, they also understand that I was not trying to represent myself as believing such in visiting with them the last time.

P  
Y I also went to see the Canons in order to correct the misunderstanding which had arisen during one of my lessons on Colossians. When discussing some of the mystery and pagan cults in Colossae and surrounding territory, the Canons came to the conclusion that I was talking about their alleged experiences of the Holy Spirit. This was the last time they have attended services with the Highland congregation. I made it clear that I had no reference to them - that I was only attempting to describe a historical phenomenon that helps us understand what Paul is trying to say in his Letter to the Colossians. I am not sure what progress I made in my visit but wanted you to know of it. I understand that possibly other elders have received a similar letter, in which the Canons alleged my baptism in the Holy Spirit. I do not believe the New Testament teaches that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is given to Christians today. I never intended to suggest such, and never knowingly suggested such to the Canons. I have now made it clear to them that they misunderstood me. I wanted you to know about the way this matter had been handled.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc